

**To:** Press[Press@epa.gov]  
**From:** Rhymes, Alturo  
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 8:59:50 PM  
**Subject:** CBS News Inquiry: AP Story

Can someone explain what this means?

(AP Story)

Sampling results from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency show high levels of toxic heavy metals in river water following last week's spill at a Colorado mine.

The federal agency released its testing data early Thursday following increasing public pressure.

The test results show water samples taken from the Animas River near Silverton, Colorado, in the hours after the spill contained lead levels more than 200 times the acute exposure limit for aquatic life and more than 3,500 times the limit for human ingestion.

The agency stressed that contamination levels peaked after the spill but have since fallen as the pollution moved downstream and the toxic metals settled to the bottom.

EPA and contract workers accidentally unleashed 3 million gallons of contaminated wastewater on Aug. 5 as they inspected the idled Gold King Mine.

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